

C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

2ND DISTRICT, MARYLAND

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HUMAN RESOURCES

NATIONAL SECURITY, EMERGING THREATS,
AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

**Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2002**

March 10, 2006

REPLY TO:

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Maryland Public Service Commission
William Donald Schaefer Tower
6 St. Paul St., 16th Floor
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Dear Members of the Commission:

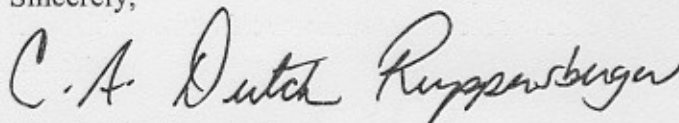
The Maryland General Assembly approved deregulation for the state's energy companies in 1999 and insisted that the companies not raise rates for six years. The rate freeze is set to expire on July 1, 2006. Baltimore Gas and Electric (BGE) Company recently announced its plans to raise rates by an average of 72 percent, an increase of \$743 for many Maryland families. I am writing to request that the Public Service Commission (PSC) take all actions necessary to protect Maryland families against this unexpected and large spike in their energy bills.

For more than 200 years, BGE has served Central Maryland and provides power to more than one million businesses and residential electric customers. Thousands of these families and companies reside in the Maryland Second Congressional District that I represent in Congress. A large number of constituents have contacted my office by phone and in writing to express their intense concern about this situation. The imposition of a 72 percent rate increase would be devastating on both residents and small businesses.

I am asking the PSC to thoroughly investigate why BGE is raising rates so dramatically. The commission should also search for some sort of relief for customers who can't afford to pay these much higher bills. Increasing rates over a period of time instead of inflicting a sudden rate increase could greatly help Maryland families. In addition, the commission should consider how to protect the elderly and those on fixed incomes who will be hit hard by these massive extra costs.

Maryland citizens depend on BGE for their power needs. I hope the commission will do what is best for Maryland families.

Sincerely,



C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger
Member of Congress